

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN HM PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICE (HMPPS) AND BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HELD AT HM PRISON PARC YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTION (YOI)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a service level agreement to support young people held at HM Prison Parc Young Offenders Institution (HMPYOI) and fulfil the statutory responsibilities of the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study, and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications, and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy, and independent lives.

3. Background

- 3.1 HMPPS Youth Custody Service (YCS) funds the dedicated social worker (DSW) provision across the under-18 public and private young offenders institutions in England and Wales.
- 3.2 DSWs have a role in working with those children identified as being most vulnerable and where the greatest risk to their safety and wellbeing exists, including where they may be supported by, or eligible for service from, a local authority's Children's Social Care Service.
- 3.3 In the county borough of Bridgend, HMPYOI is a setting that requires such a provision.

- 3.4 Historically, Bridgend County Borough Council employed a senior social work practitioner as part of the Bridgend Youth Justice Service to fulfill this role. This arrangement ended in December 2020.
- 3.5 In the interim HMPYOI put in place arrangements to fulfill the role albeit not with the independence that HMPPS was seeking.
- 3.6 With this in mind, the local authority, HMPYOI and HMPPS officers have worked together to develop a service level agreement (attached as Appendix 1) to reintroduce a senior practitioner to HMPYOI.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The proposal is to provide a dedicated senior social work practitioner from Bridgend Youth Justice Service to work as part of the Youth Custody Service within HM Parc Prison, Bridgend with children subject to remand/custodial sentences in the HMPYOI.
- 4.2 This officer will work with the safeguarding team and resettlement practitioners to deliver on a number of positive outcomes for both children and young people and the establishment within which their duties are discharged. These will include ensuring that:
- HMPYOI is fulfilling its statutory safeguarding duties effectively and is compliant with all relevant legislation and guidance;
 - all children and young people who are within HM Parc Prison, and who are currently or have been in the past, looked after or cared for by a local authority, are identified and supported to access statutory services to which they are entitled; and
 - all children and young persons identified as Children in Need (England) or Care and Support (Wales) either in custody or on release are assessed as such and provided with access to services/support at the appropriate time.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Council's policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial equalities impact assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.
Prevention	Work undertaken to reduce or prevent the risk of reoffending.
Integration	Bridgend Youth Justice Service will work closely with the responsible local authority to ensure the needs of the child are met and an appropriate plan is in place for release.
Collaboration	A variety of agencies will work together on a multi-agency basis to develop a robust plan for the child to reduce or prevent further offending.
Involvement	This area of work involves a range of stakeholders including the local authority, HM Parc Prison, South Wales Police, and the National Probation Service.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the attached service level agreement (SLA) which will be reviewed on an annual basis. As all costs will be recovered from the Youth Custody Service there will be no cost to the Council from this arrangement.

8.2 These can be summarised as:

- from 2 January 2023 to 31 March 2023, Bridgend County Borough Council will invoice the Youth Custody Service to the value of not more than £18,973.50, based on ad hoc support based on service need; and
- for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, Bridgend Youth Justice Service will invoice against the purchase order to a value of not more than £75,894 (made up of £54,183 for the Senior Social Work Practitioner with the remaining £21,711 covering management and administration support).

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- delegates authority to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support to negotiate and enter into the service level agreement; and
- approve any extension or amendment to the service level agreement and to enter into any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to the service level agreement.

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Background documents:

None